I claim:

1. A method for use in the removal of spilled oil and like contaminants from the surface of a body of water characterized by deploying a series of interconnected barriers in a circular state, with each barrier containing a charge of strands of a polyolefin and with each barrier containing a rotable propeller for causing the intermixing and rotating of the polyolefin strands with one another producing a loose fluffy polyolefin mass having a multiplicity of interstices formed throughout the mass thereby materially increasing the adsorbing oil ensnaring characteristics of the mass.

2. A method of sealing a polluted area containing a plume of subsurface pollutants to prevent transport of the pollutants from the polluted area comprising: forming a sealing barrier layer around the polluted area by deploying a series of interconnected barriers around the polluted area, each barrier containing a rotatable propeller for intermixing a multiplicity of polyolefin strands with one another producing a loose fluffy polyolefin mass having interstices throughout the mass for increasing the adsorbing oil ensnaring characteristics of the mass.

3. A method of producing a containment barrier system for preventing the lateral migration of fluid contaminants in an area on a water surface while allowing controlled removal of some of the fluid contaminants from the contained area comprising: deploying a fluid impermeable barrier wall on the outer surface adjacent the leakage zone by placing a series of barrier members adjacent the leakage zone.

4. In a method of producing an in-ground containment barrier system for preventing the lateral migration of fluid containments in an area in the ground while allowing controlled removal of some of the fluid contaminants from the contained area comprising:

forming a fluid impermeable barrier wall in the ground adjacent the leakage zone by placing one or more barrier members adjacent the leakage zone, the barrier wall comprising a plurality of series-connected traps for collecting and removing oil, each trap comprising an arrangement of top and bottom, side and end panels in a box-like configuration, with each of the panels being sievelike for the free passage thereinto of the oil and water mixture, a charge of a highly porous synthetic polymer in the form of a hydrophobic oleophilic, fibrous material having intercommunicating interstices extending therethrough for the reception and retention of the oil and the reception of the water with the oil free water being passed freely from the traps, a tension-bearing cable extending longitudinally through the traps of the series for maintaining the traps in interconnected relationship, and a propelling means within each trap for stirring and agitating the polymer therewithin.

5. A method for collecting oil floating on a body of water comprising:
providing a series of interconnected enclosed oil collection traps oriented to capture the floating oil and to channel same towards the traps by the progressive approach of the traps toward the oil so as to entrain the threshold of the oil and water flowing immediately thereunder upwardly from the water surface and into the traps for the retention of the oil by the masses of synthetic polymer within the traps while the water is passed through and outwardly of the traps, with the traps including rotative means for imparting a turning motion to the polymer mass within each trap.

6. In a method of producing an in-ground containment barrier system for preventing the lateral migration of fluid containments in an area in the ground while allowing controlled removal of some of the fluid contaminants from the contained area comprising:
forming a fluid impermeable barrier wall in the ground adjacent the leakage zone by placing one or more barrier members adjacent the leakage zone, the barrier member comprising a boxlike arrangement of top and bottom and side and end open mesh panels, with a mass of randomly oriented blown polymer oil-absorbing material disposed within the barrier interior with a means within the barrier for imparting a churning motion to the polymer.